

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4456W

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 3380

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PK, UN, PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPUTY FONMIN FIRYUBIN HOLDS HIGH-LEVEL TALKS IN DELHI

REF: ISLAMABAD 2313 (NOTAL)

1. SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FIRYUBIN MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN, FOREIGN SECRETARY KEWAL SINGH AND MEA POLICY PLANNING DIRECTOR PARTHASARATHI AMONG OTHER OFFICIALS DURING A SIX-DAY VISIT TO INDIA FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 5. THE PRESS REPORTS HE PAID A COURTESY CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER MARCH 4, AND LEFT EARLY THE NEXT DAY FOR VISITS TO PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN.

2. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE TOPICS FIRYUBIN PURSUED HERE. AN MEA DEPUTY SECRETARY ON THE SOVIET DEESK TOLD
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US MARCH 5 MORNING THAT HE UNDERSTOOD NO COMMUNIQUE WOULD BE

ISSUED AND HE WAS NOT SURE HE COULD EVEN BE HELPFUL IF WE DROPPED BY NEXT WEEK FOR A BRIEFING. WE HAVE NOT HAD AN OPPORTUNITY YET TO SPEAK WITH SOVIET OR KNOWLEDGEABLE EAST EUROPEAN DIPLOMATS ABOUT THE VISIT BUT HAVE SOME APPOINTMENTS NEXT WEEK.

3. JUDGING FROM FLIMSY PRESS ACCOUNTS AS WELL AS PAST PRACTICE, FIRYUBIN PROBABLY HAD A FULL TOUR D'HORIZON WITHOUT A FIXED AGENDA WITH MEA OFFICIALS. OUR INFORMATION HAS THE DEPUTY MINISTER LAST VISITING INDIA OCTOBER 1971, AT THE TIME OF THE BANGLADESH CRISIS; CERTAINLY HE RECEIVED AN UPDATING FROM CHAVAN ON THE MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS THERE. THE CPI DAILY PATRIOT COMMENTED MARCH 4 THAT THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN CHINA ALSO FIGURED IN THE TALKS. CORRESPONDENTS FOR THE HINDU AND THE TIMES OF INDIA SUGGESTED IN ARTICLES MARCH 3 AND 4, RESPECTIVELY, THAT THE FORTHCOMING COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT WAS A FURTHER PROMINENT TOPIC. THE SOVIETS WERE SAID BY THE HINDU TO BE "CONCERNED ABOUT THE ATTEMPTS BEING MADE BY A SECTION OF THE NON-ALIGNED COMMUNITY... TO DILUTE THE CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION TO THE POINT OF THROWING THE DOORS OPEN EVEN TO ROMANIA..." (FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN HAS BEEN EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT NON-ALIGNED MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA, MOST RECENTLY TO A PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 28, AND INDIA HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN NAMED BY THE NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING GROUP TO PREPARE THE PRINCIPLE PAPER ON MEMBERSHIP ISSUES). BECAUSE THE INDIANS WANT TO KEEP THE PAKISTANIS OUT OF THE MOVEMENT, AND THE SOVIETS ARE CURIOUS TO SAY THE LEAST ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR ROMANIA'S CANDIDACY, CHAVAN AND FIRYUBIN PROBABLY FOUND THIS A CONGENIAL SUBJECT TO BAT AROUND. CONCEIVABLY PROSPECTS FOR A VISIT BY MRS. GANDHI TO MOSCOW AS WELL AS INDIAN PLANS REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF A NEW AMBASSADOR TO THE USSR WERE ALSO DISCUSSED. WE HOPE TO HAVE MORE NEXT WEEK.

SAXBE

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